Rethinking Maps

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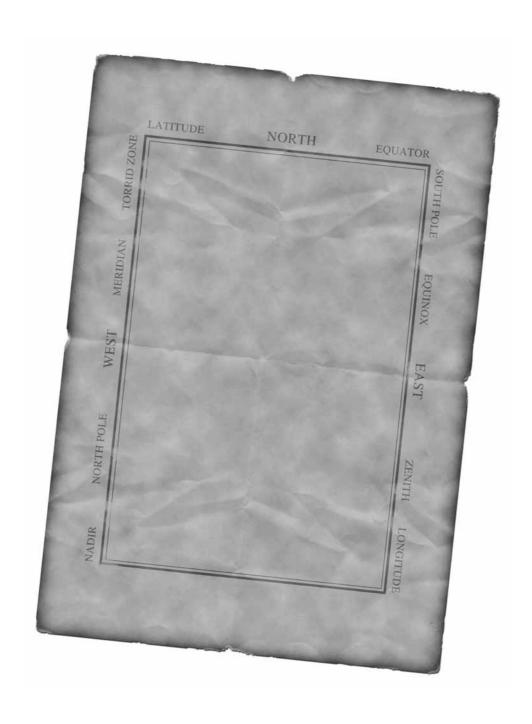
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Rethinking Maps

New Frontiers in Cartographic Theory

Martin Dodge,¹ Rob Kitchin² and Chris Perkins¹

- 1 Geography, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK.
- 2 NIRSA and Department of Geography, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland.



Martin dedicates this book to his sisters Alison and Susan

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Contributors

Stuart C. Aitken

Department of Geography, San Diego State University San Diego, USA and Department of Geography and The Norwegian Centre for Child Research, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim

Stuart Aitken is Professor of Geography at San Diego State University. His books include *Philosophies, People, Places and Practices* (with Gill Valentine; Sage 2004), Geographies of Young People: The Morally Contested Spaces of Identity (Routledge 2001), Family Fantasies and Community Space (Rutgers University Press 1998), Place, Space, Situation and Spectacle: A Geography of Film (with Leo Zonn; Rowman and Littlefield 1994) and Putting Children in Their Place (Association of American Geographers 1994). His interests include film and media, critical social theory, qualitative methods, public participation GIS, children, families and communities. Stuart is past coeditor of The Professional Geographer and current North American editor of Children's Geographies.

Tom Conley

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, USA

Tom Conley is member of the Departments of Romance Languages and Visual/Environmental Studies at Harvard University. He studies cartography through literature, film and theory and is the author of *The Self-Made Map*: Cartographic Writing in Early Modern France (University of Minnesota Press 1996) and *Cartographic Cinema* (University of Minnesota Press 2007). He has contributed two essays to David Woodward (ed.) The History of Cartography 3: The European Renaissance (University of Chicago Press 2007) and is translator of Christian Jacob, The Sovereign Map (University of Chicago Press 2006).

Emmet Connolly

Dublin, Ireland

Emmet Connolly is an interaction designer and artist. His work encompasses open source programming, mapping methodologies, information visualization,

xiv Contributors

citizen media and community activism. Emmet earned an MA in digital art and technology at the University of Plymouth and currently works for Google in Dublin.

Jim Craine

Department of Geography, California State University, Northridge, USA

Jim Craine is an Assistant Professor of Geography at California State University, Northridge. He specializes in the geography of media and also works applying geovisualization theory to digital and analogue cartography. He is co-editor of *Aether: The Journal of Media Geography*, http://www.aetherjournal.org>.

Jeremy W. Crampton

Department of Geosciences, Georgia State University, USA

Jeremy Crampton is Associate Professor of Geography with research interests focused on the critical approaches to cartography and GIS, the politics of identity and new spatial media. His paper 'the biopolitical justification for geosurveillance' appeared in the *Geographical Review* in 2007, and a progress report on cartography and new spatial media was published in *Progress in Human Geography* in 2008. He is editor of *Cartographica* and also a section editor for cartography in the *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography* (Elsevier 2009) and author of the forthcoming book *Mapping: A Critical Introduction to Cartography and GIS* (Wiley-Blackwell).

Martin Dodge

School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, UK

Martin Dodge is a Lecturer in Human Geography and his research focuses primarily on the geography of cyberspace, particularly ways to map and visualize the Internet and the Web. He is the curator of a web-based *Atlas of Cyberspaces* (http://www.cybergeography.org/atlas) and has co-authored two books, *Mapping Cyberspace* (Routledge 2000) and *Atlas of Cyberspace* (Addison-Wesley 2001) both with Rob Kitchin and recently co-edited a book on *Geographic Visualization* (Wiley 2008). He has a PhD from the University of London.

Georg Gartner

Institute of Geoinformation and Cartography, Vienna University of Technology

Georg Gartner is a Full Professor in the research group in cartography at the Vienna University of Technology. He holds graduate qualifications in geography and cartography from the University of Vienna and received his PhD and his Habilitation from the Vienna University of Technology. He was awarded a Fulbright grant to the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1997 and a research visiting fellowship to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 2000 and to South China Normal University in 2006. He serves as Vice President of the International Cartographic Association and is the organizer of the International Symposia on Location Based Services & TeleCartography and co-editor of the book series *Lecture Notes on Geoinformation and Cartography* (Springer) and the *Journal of Location Based Services* (Taylor & Francis).

Michael F. Goodchild

National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis and Department of Geography, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

Michael Goodchild is Professor of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Director of spatial@ucsb. He received his BA degree in physics from Cambridge University in 1965 and his PhD in geography from McMaster University in 1969. He was Director of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis from 1991 to 1997. He was elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2002, and member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2006. His published books include Accuracy of Spatial Databases (Taylor & Francis 1989); Geographical Information Systems: Principles and Applications (GeoInformation Group 1991); Environmental Modeling with GIS (Wiley 1996); Scale in Remote Sensing and GIS (CRC Press 1997); Interoperating Geographic Information Systems (Springer 1999); Geographic Information Systems and Science (Wiley 2001); Uncertainty in Geographical Information (CRC Press 2002); Foundations of Geographic Information Science (CRC Press 2003); Spatially Integrated Social Science (OUP 2004); GIS, Spatial Analysis and Modeling (ESRI Press 2005); and Geospatial Analysis: A Comprehensive Guide to Principles, Techniques and Software Tools (Matador 2006). His current research interests centre on geographic information science, spatial analysis, and uncertainty in geographic data.

Leila Harris

Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

Leila Harris is Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies. She works at the intersection of nature-society theory, gender studies and critical development studies. Among other research efforts, her work includes attention to social, political and institutional dimensions of environmental and developmental change in Southeastern Turkey, emergent international and institutional trends with respect to water governance, and gender-environment debates.

Helen Hazen

Department of Geography, Macalester College, St. Paul, USA

Helen Hazen is an environmental and medical geographer with expertise and field experience in the Americas, Africa and Oceania. After several years working in the field of conservation in the tropics, she returned to academia to complete a PhD in geography at the University of Minnesota, concentrating on issues related to national parks and international conservation agreements. Her research continues to focus on human—environment interactions, considering both applied and theoretical perspectives on environmental conservation. Her research and teaching have subsequently branched out to incorporate the geography of human health, particularly ecological approaches to health and disease.

Rob Kitchin

National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis and Department of Geography, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Rob Kitchin is Professor of Human Geography and Director of the National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Chair of the Management Board of the Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP). He's published sixteen books, is editor of the international journal *Social and Cultural Geography*, and co-editor-in-chief of the *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography* (Elsevier 2009).

John Krygier

Department of Geology and Geography, Ohio Wesleyan University, USA

John Krygier is Associate Professor of Geography. He teaches cartography, GIS and geography courses at Ohio Wesleyan University, and is the author, with Denis Wood, of *Making Maps: A Visual Guide to Map Design for GIS* (Guilford Press 2005). He blogs about cartographic arcane at http://makingmaps.net.

Chris Perkins

School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, UK

Chris Perkins is Senior Lecturer in Geography and university map curator. He is the author of four books including standard texts documenting the changing contexts of map availability (*World Mapping Today* with R.B. Parry; Bowker 1998) and has recently co-edited the second edition of the *Companion Encyclopaedia to Geography* (Routledge 2006). His research interests are centred on the different ways in which mapping may be employed and he is the first Chair of the International Cartographic Association's commission on maps in society.

Amy Propen

Department of English and Humanities, York College of Pennsylvania, USA

Amy Propen is Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition. Her areas of research include the intersections of rhetoric and geography, with a specific focus on visual and material rhetorics and the relationships between space and the body. She has published on critical GIS and visual rhetoric and mapping, and is currently preparing a book provisionally titled *Maps, Mills, and Locative Technologies: Contexts for Understanding Material Rhetoric.*

Dominica Williamson

Cornwall, UK

Dominica Williamson is a freelance designer and artist based in Cornwall. Her practice looks at how sustainable design solutions can be achieved. She was the design director for Green Map's *Green Map Atlas* in 2003–4 and joined the network in 2000. She was awarded a MSc in digital futures at the School of Computing, Communications and Electronics, University of Plymouth and obtained a BA first class honours in design studies from Goldsmiths College, University of London. Her latest work can be found at http://ecogeographer.com.

Denis Wood

Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

Denis Wood is independent scholar and he was Professor of Design at North Carolina State University from 1974 to 1996. He curated The Power of Maps exhibitions for the Cooper-Hewitt National Museum of Design in New York and the Smithsonian in Washington. Author of *The Power of Maps* (Guilford Press 2002), *Home Rules* (with Robert Beck; Johns Hopkins University Press 1994), *Seeing Through Maps* (with Ward Kasier; ODT 2001), *Five Billion Years of Global Change* (Guilford Press 2004) and *Making Maps* (with John Krygier; Guilford Press 2005), his most recent book is *The Natures of Maps* (with John Fels; University of Chicago Press 2008). He has a PhD in geography from Clark University.

Preface

The Bellman's Speech

The Bellman himself they all praised to the skies – Such a carriage, such ease and such grace! Such solemnity, too! One could see he was wise, The moment one looked in his face! He had bought a large map representing the sea, Without the least vestige of land: And the crew were much pleased when they found it to be A map they could all understand. "What's the good of Mercator's North Poles and Equators, Tropics, Zones, and Meridian Lines?" So the Bellman would cry: and the crew would reply "They are merely conventional signs! "Other maps are such shapes, with their islands and capes! But we've got our brave Captain to thank" (So the crew would protest) "that he's bought us the best – A perfect and absolute blank!"

(Lewis Carroll (1876), The Hunting of the Snark, London: Macmillan)